

# Your Extension Newsline

## On-Site Landscape Diagnostic Clinics

What could be causing my newly-planted rhododendron to turn brown? What can I plant in a wet soil? What do I do with this low spot in my lawn?

Do any of these questions plague you? The York County Office of Virginia Cooperative Extension will answer your landscape questions during the months of April and May at free clinics in six neighborhoods throughout the county. The clinics will help homeowners recognize specific problems in the landscape and be able to develop solutions for those problems. York County Master Gardeners will discuss landscape problems, insects, diseases, alternative plants, and watering, as well as answer questions from participants. Each Clinic starts at 6:30 p.m. and lasts approximately 75 minutes. Pre-register for a clinic by calling the York County Extension office at (757) 890-4940 or register at the website [www.yorkcounty.gov/vce](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/vce). Directions to the clinic site will be mailed to registered participants. Come and learn research-based solutions for your specific landscape problems.

### April Clinic Schedule

Tuesday, April 9th, Shady Bluff Point  
(Skimino Landing Estates, Williamsburg area)

Thursday, April 18th, East Queens Drive  
(Queens Lake, Williamsburg area)



## May Clinic Schedule

Wednesday, May 1st, Port Cove  
(Olde Port Cove, Tabb area)

Tuesday, May 7th, Barn Swallow Ridge  
(Grafton Woods, Grafton area)

Thursday, May 16th, Berry's Landing  
(off Dare Road, Grafton area)

Tuesday, May 21st, Valentine Circle  
(Lee's Village, Grafton area)



## Gardening 2002 "Do It The Smart Way"

Gardening 2002 will be held at CNU on Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$15 per person including lunch. The day will start at 8 AM with registration. The keynote speaker is Bonnie Appleton, Extension Specialist, Horticulture, Professor Virginia Tech and author of, *Favorite Plants for Tidewater Gardens*, and *The New York/Mid-Atlantic Gardener's Book of Lists*. This year classes will include: "Garden Sculpture", "A Calendar of Insect Problems Through the Year", "Under the Knife - Topiary", "A Rose For Every Home - A Bush For Every Garden", "Herb Gardening", and "Vegetable Gardening". Participants will be able to pick two workshops to attend (one in the morning and one in the afternoon). The rest of this informative day will include a flower arranging show and campus garden tours. Contact 594-7153 for more information or to register.

## Programs at a Glance

Apr 9	On-Site Landscape Diagnostic Clinic, Skimino Landing Estates Subdivision, Williamsburg area
Apr 13	Gardening 2002 at Christopher Newport University
Apr 18	On-Site Landscape Diagnostic Clinic, Queens Lake Subdivision, Williamsburg area
May 1	On-Site Landscape Diagnostic Clinic, Olde Port Cove Subdivision, Tabb area
May 4	Spring 2002 Learning Garden Plant Sale, Sponsored by the York County Master Gardeners
May 7	On-Site Landscape Diagnostic Clinic, Grafton Woods Subdivision, Grafton area
May 16	On-Site Landscape Diagnostic Clinic, off Dare Road, Grafton area
May 21	On-Site Landscape Diagnostic Clinic, Lee's Village Subdivision, Grafton area
June 26	Pesticide Recert. / Comm. Applicators 3A,B, 5A,6,7A,7B,10,60 / Norfolk Public Health Center (683-2816)

**Spring 2002 Open House & Plant Sale**  
York County Learning Garden & Arboretum  
Saturday, May 4, 2002  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

The Learning Garden is a public educational garden developed to display plants that are acclimated to the Peninsula. The York County Master Gardeners have established plants through donations and grants so that the public can observe how specific plants will do in this area. The gardeners have been working since 1995 to establish this garden. The Learning Garden is located off Goodwin Neck Road in front of the Public Safety building. Come take a tour or buy plants. See you then!

**4-H Growing Mums for Profit**

The York County Cooperative Extension Office is taking registrations for the 4-H Chrysanthemum project. The project combines the skills of growing plants with the knowledge of how to account for, market and sell a “product.” Youth will receive materials to grow 20 chrysanthemums. They will grow these mums throughout the summer and be in total care of their “product.” Participants will attend five scheduled educational one hour sessions through the summer to learn the proper care for the chrysanthemum, how to keep your accounts in order, and to learn how to market and sell your product.

Youth ages 10 - 15 may participate. Participants are responsible for the care of their mums. The first meeting date will be May 20, 2002, at 6:30 p.m., in the York County Extension Office. Participants will pot their chrysanthemums and bring them home. It is important that these plants are growing in a full sun location where they can be watered daily and free of competing vegetation. Other meeting dates will be as follows: June 3, 24, July 22, and August 19.

Please contact the York Extension Office at 890-4940 for more information and to register. Registration fee of \$20.00 must be received by May 1, 2002.

**HearSay Radio Show**

Listen to timely gardening topics, horticultural questions and answers on WHRV 89.5 FM with Jim Orband, Kathy Lewis and Kathy Van Mullekom. Listen April 19th, May 17th, & June 21st from 12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m. You are invited to call in with your questions.

**April - June “To Do’s”**

- ✦ Average last frost date in York County is April 10. Warm season vegetables should not be planted until after May 10.
- ✦ No fertilizer at this time for your fescue lawns. It is tempting to fertilize since all of your neighbors are. Hold on to your money or buy the fertilizer and store it for the fall. Too much nutrient on your fescue lawn now can cause it to be overstimulated and expend it’s resources for a horrible display this summer. Not to mention its susceptibility to disease.
- ✦ Inspect new transplants bought at the store. Look at the root system for fibrous white roots that lightly fill the pack. There should be equal amount of root and soil held together.
- ✦ APHID ALERT! Cool wet springs encourage the development of Aphid populations. Monitor your plants for small spherical, soft bodied, green insects. If populations are small — use hose to spray off insects. Malathion is effective on Aphids. Follow label closely.
- ✦ Monitor insect populations. Please do not just blast insects with insecticides unless you know what you are controlling. Call us if you are in doubt. We can identify insects and suggest different alternatives for control. Many times control does not have to be a chemical.
- ✦ Mow fescue lawns to a height of 2 ½ to 3 inches.
- ✦ Design beds now to plan your purchase of annuals for when the proper planting time is in our area.
- ✦ Vegetable gardens need routine weeding especially if you are watering. Removing weeds helps to eliminate competition for space, nutrients and water. Call us with disease, cultural or insect problems on your vegetable plants.
- ✦ The summer continues to be a time to be vigilant in the garden (not only the vegetable garden). Routine sprays do not always control every insect and disease. Be sure to monitor the plants that are prone to specific insects and the disease outbreaks. If you encounter a problem, we can provide you with diagnostic skills and control recommendations. Call us at 890-4940.
- ✦ Trying to establish a fescue lawn is very difficult and your return on your investment is about 25%. Mark your August calendar to attend a lawn clinic and get the jump on establishing a fescue lawn.


Other FREE Newsletters Available from the York County Extension Office

- ⇒ *Advisor*—the newsletter for the Professional Horticulturists and employees in the Green Industry.
- ⇒ *Clover Chronicle*—the newsletter of the York County 4-H Program.
- ⇒ *Reinventing A Healthier You*—is designed to help you make healthy choices in good nutrition and exercise.

To request change of service, address corrections, subscription removal, or subscriptions to other FREE Extension Newsletters please call 890-4940, or email your request to [ex199@vt.edu](mailto:ex199@vt.edu). Please include your name, mailing address, or e-mail address if you would like to be notified when Extension newsletters are available for viewing on our web site [www.yorkcounty.gov/vce](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/vce).

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in any Extension programs, please contact Jody Painter, York County Extension Office at 890-4940 during business hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to discuss accommodations 10 days prior to the event.

*Your Extension Newsline* is prepared and distributed free-of charge by the York County staff of Virginia Cooperative Extension.

  
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Extension Agent, ANR

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